

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00190 121641Z

67

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02 OMB-01

SAM-01 DRC-01 SCI-06 /173 W
----- 004211

R 121100Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5198

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 0190

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GB

SUBJ: EXPORT CONTROLS AND EXPORT TAXES IMPOSED BY GABON

REF: STATE 22871

1. SINCE JANUARY 1973 GOG HAS NEITHER IMPOSED NEW CONTROLS OR TAXES NOR TIGHTENED EXISTING ONES ON ITS EXPORTS OF MANGANESE, URANIUM AND PETROLEUM.

2. CHANGES IN EXPORT CONTROLS ON OKOUME LOGS SINCE JANUARY 1973: ON DECEMBER 17, 1973, GOG DECREED THAT AS OF THAT DATE LOGGING COMPANIES MUST DELIVER AT LEAST 15 PER CENT OF THEIR OKOUME EXPORTS TO GOVERNMENT WOOD SALES OFFICE (OFFICE NATIONALE DES BOIS DU GABON) AND THAT AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 1974 PERCENTAGE WOULD RISE TO 25 PERCENT.

3. GOG HAS CONSISTENTLY ENCOURAGED INCREASED EXPORTS OF ITS BASIC RAW MATERIALS. MARKETING AGENCIES ARE ALL MNC'S OR IN CASE OF URANIUM, IT IS FRENCH AEC WHICH
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LIBREV 00190 121641Z

HOLDS EXPLOTATION PERMITS. THIS TRADITIONAL APPROACH

NOW CHANGING. AS RESULT OF KNOWLEDGE OF RECENT WORLD-WIDE PRICE TRENDS ARISING FROM ENERGY CRISIS AND OF LIMITED LONG-TERM SUPPLY OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS, GOG IS IN PROCESS OF RETHINKING MARKETING ASPECT AS WELL AS WHOLE ISSUE OF CONTROL OF SUBSOIL MINERALS. ACCORDINGLY, GOG BECAME ASSOCIATE MEMBER OPEC IN OCTOBER 1973 AND PRESIDENT BONGO RECENTLY CALLED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF "OPEC-LIKE ORGANIZATIONS" FOR URANIUM AND WOOD.

4. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES IT DIFFICULT TO PREDICT EXTENT TO WHICH GOG WILL EMPHASIZE EXPORT RESTRICTIONS OR DEMANDS FOR PRICE INCREASES AS THE LEADING ELEMENT IN ITS RAW MATERIAL POLICY. WE JUDGE THAT IN THE SHORT RUN GABONESE WILL BE ATTRACTED BY PROSPECT OF HIGHER REVENUES DERIVED FROM INCREASED EXPORTS. IN LONGER TERM HOWEVER THEY MAY WELL DECIDE THAT RESTRICTING EXPORTS IS BEST WAY TO MAXIMIZE REVENUES. SPECIFICALLY, FOR THE PRESENT AND IMMEDIATE FUTURE, GOG WILL UNDOUBTEDLY FOLLOW OPEC LEAD ON OIL AND JUDGING FROM BONGO'S STATEMENT NOTED ABOVE WILL SEEK SOME SORT OF RUDIMENTARY MECHANISM TO REGULATE PRODUCTION AND SALE OF WOOD AND URANIUM. FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE, GOG WILL PROBABLY PERMIT COMILOG TO PRODUCE AND EXPORT AS MUCH MANGANESE AS IT CAN. FINALLY, IN CASE OF STILL UNDEVELOPED BELINGA IRON DEPOSITS PROSPECTIVE DEVELOPER WOULD HAVE TO BE GIVEN ALMOST FREE REIN ON SETTING LEVEL OF EXPORTS IN ORDER TO ATTRACT MASSIVE INVESTMENT NECESSARY.

5. NO KNOWN AGREEMENTS TO TRADE ON BARTER TERMS.

6. COMPLETE LIST OF ALL OTHER EXPORT CONTROLS AND TAXES IN EFFECT IS BEING TRANSMITTED BY AIRGRAM. COUNTRYMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MANGANESE, PETROLEUM, URANIUM, EXPORT CONTROLS, EXPORT PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LIBREV00190
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740239/aaaabkse.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 22871
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <04-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPORT CONTROLS AND EXPORT TAXES IMPOSED BY GABON
TAGS: ETRD, EIND, GB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005